

January 2009 I-NEDSS Update

The Indiana National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) is a web-based application that promotes the collection, integration, and sharing of data at federal, state, and local levels. The purpose of I-NEDSS is to automate the current paper-based process for reporting of Lab Reports, Communicable Disease Reports (CDR), and Case Investigations.

I-NEDSS is above all else, a tool to support and enhance the reporting process outlined in IAC 410 (<http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T04100/A00010.PDF>). Benefits of I-NEDSS include an increase of speed, accuracy, and accountability in our disease surveillance efforts. This will be accomplished by having the reporting and investigation forms accessed, completed, and submitted electronically.

Pilot Efforts - 2008

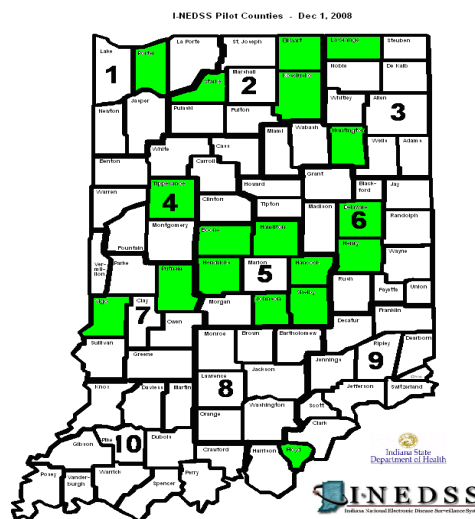
The I-NEDSS Project Team engaged six Local Health Departments (LHDs) in a pilot of the Notification Module beginning on March 31, 2008. A second pilot was undertaken involving those same six LHDs beginning August 11, 2008 and focusing on the Case Investigation Module. The goal of both pilots was to validate the ability for I-NEDSS to support the disease reporting process and to solicit feedback from the LHDs regarding enhancements and improvements to the system.

In October 2008, the I-NEDSS Project Team released an update of I-NEDSS (version 3.2) and engaged an additional twelve LHDs in an expanded pilot of I-NEDSS. The goal of expanding the pilot was to validate the ability of the I-NEDSS Project Team to conduct training and support the I-NEDSS application on a large scale.

The pilot process was completed in November, and as of December 1, 2008 there are 18 LHDs participating in I-NEDSS. Those counties are:

*Hamilton	*Hendricks	*Putnam
*Johnson	*Kosciusko	*Floyd
Porter	Starke	Elkhart
LaGrange	Huntington	Tippecanoe
Boone	Hancock	Shelby
Delaware	Henry	Vigo

** Denotes original pilot LHD*



The I-NEDSS Project Team is currently working to incorporate the feedback from these counties, and add additional enhancements to be released in January 2009 as I-NEDSS version 3.3.



Statewide Rollout - 2009

The I-NEDSS Project Team is also planning for a Statewide Rollout of I-NEDSS, to begin in February 2009.

Beginning with District 5, an I-NEDSS Training Team will be visiting one Preparedness District each month to conduct training for any LHD that wishes to participate in I-NEDSS. After receiving the training, LHDs may then solicit hospitals that submit Communicable Disease Reports to them and encourage the Infection Preventionist (IPs) to complete online I-NEDSS Training to begin utilization of the system for disease reporting.

Training will be given in contiguous districts, so if your LHD cannot participate in training inside of your district, you will have opportunities to participate in training in neighboring districts. The I-NEDSS Training Team will work to include your LHD wherever you choose to do training.

Expect the announcement of the 2009 Training Plan by the end of January. Monthly announcements will be made via the following areas:

- LHD Resource Website (<https://myshare.in.gov/isdh/lhdresource/default.aspx>)
- LHD-ISDH Conference Call (2nd Friday of every month)
- ISDH Epi Newsletter (<http://www.in.gov/isdh/17458.htm>)
- Indiana Health Alert Network (IHAN)
- Direct Communication via the ISDH Field Epidemiologists
- Other outlets as identified

Partnerships, Sponsorship and Success Stories

In 2008, the I-NEDSS Project Team conducted several outreach activities, developing partnerships, and planning for a collaborative approach towards incorporating and enhancing disease surveillance and reporting activities. Among those partnerships:

- The Association of Infection Control Practitioners (APIC), Indiana Chapter
- The Robert-Wood Johnson “Common Ground” Project sponsored by the Marion County Health Department
- The Indiana State Public Health Lab
- The Regenstrief Institute and the Indiana Network for Patient Care
- ISDH HIV, STD, TB, and Lead Program Areas

I-NEDSS is currently an ISDH development effort based in the Public Health Preparedness Emergency Response (PHPER) Commission and championed by project sponsorship from the Epi Resource Center (ERC), Surveillance and Investigation Division (SID). Federal monies fund the development efforts 100%. The primary funding source is the CDC’s Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Grant with supplemental funding provided by the CDC’s Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Grant.

The I-NEDSS Project has had several successes during 2008. With your participation we will make major improvements in disease reporting and surveillance for the State of Indiana.